

The excised portion showed evidence of vascular obstruction and no muscle fibre was demonstrated microscopically.

On 29/8/49 intravenous pyelography showed both kidneys functioning well. The left side was slightly dilated. There was a constant circular filling defect in the left side of the bladder base. Cystogram showed no abnormality in the bladder, but the opaque fluid passed up into a dilated left ureter.

On 11/9/49 cystoscopy showed a moderate degree of cystitis, slight intravesical bulging of the right ureter, and a more marked bulging of the left ureter.

The cystitis cleared up satisfactorily and the infant was discharged on 28/9/49, free from symptoms. We have to thank Dr. Claude Field for carrying out the difficult investigations on this infant.

REFERENCE

McPHERSON, I. : *Brit. J. Surg.*, 29, 294; 1942.

REVIEWS

OXIDATION-REDUCTION POTENTIALS IN BACTERIOLOGY AND BIO-CHEMISTRY. By L. F. Hewitt, Ph.D., B.Sc., F.R.I.C. Sixth Edition. Pp. 215. Edinburgh : E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1950. 20s.

THIS work was originally published in 1931 by the London County Council as a two-shilling booklet. Many biochemists and bacteriologists have been grateful to Dr. Hewitt for providing a relatively simple and clear introduction to the difficult subject of oxidation-reduction potentials, and its value is indicated by the fact that it has now reached the sixth edition. In this edition the publication has reached the status of a book. It is considerably enlarged, contains several new chapters, and has a substantial binding. Unfortunately, the price has increased tenfold as compared with the pre-war editions.

The earlier chapters remain an introduction to the study of oxidation-reduction potentials, including the meaning of the rH scale. Like Mansfield Clark, who originated this scale, the author recommends that the use of the scale be discontinued, as it is liable to cause confusion. In this connection it may be pointed out that in a new book "Multi-Enzyme Systems," by Malcolm Dixon, a strong case is made for wider use of the rH scale, as it has many advantages, notably the simple relationship between the rH value and free energy of a reaction.

The book covers a wider field than might be expected from the title. It deals with some of the techniques of pH measurement and with polarography, and contains chapters on bacteriological applications, and on chemotherapy and antibiotics.

The usefulness of the book is much increased by the provision of a thirty-page bibliography

D. C. H.

A HISTORY OF OTO-LARYNGOLOGY. By R. Scott Stevenson, M.D., F.R.C.S. (Ed.), and Douglas Guthrie, M.D., F.R.C.S.(Ed.). Pp. 155 with index. Edinburgh : E. & S. Livingstone. 1949. 17s. 6d.

A most excellent small book of 137 pages, written in an easy manner, with a minimum of irrelevant matter, and dealing with the history and evolution of the speciality of oto-laryngology in a very complete manner, free from undue technicality. It deals very adequately with the famous men who have played an important part in the progress of this branch of surgery, and with the gradual improvement, and widening of technique, and knowledge up to the present day.

The illustrations are excellent, and the liberal sprinkling of portraits makes many of the outstanding names become more nearly personalities.

F. A. MacL.